PRESIDENT : The point of order that has been raised is whether this is a lawful session of the Assembly and whether it has been lawfully called. Section 10 of the Legislative Reforms Regulation is clear that it gives power to the Dewan to "appoint such times and places for holding the sessions of either Chamber of the Legislature as he thinks fit." In exercise of that power, the Dewan has appointed this day for holding this session in this hall, and you have been summoned to attend, by a summons, in the usual way. This session has therefore been rightfully called and we are lawfully met here to-day for the transaction of business. That is all that we are concerned with now.

However, as the summons issued for a previous day was cancelled by me and it is that point that is apparently raised, I am quite prepared to enlighten the House on it. Under Section 10 of the Regulation, the Dewan may appoint such times as he thinks fit for holding a session of either Chamber, and he may also prorogue a session. That is to say, he may bring a session into being *at any time* as also terminate it *at any time*. This power, comprehensive as it is, has been interpreted by me to include what is obviously a smaller power, namely, a power to postpone a date fixed for holding a session and, for that purpose, to cancel a summons issued for a particular day and re-issue it for another day. There is therefore no point in the objection raised and I have no hesitation to declare that this is a lawfully constituted meeting of the Sri Mulam Assembly.

NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN.

The following members took the oath and signed the rolls :—

1 Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai
2 Mr. K. George
3 Mr. M. Govinda Pillai
4 Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai
5 Mr. R. Nilakanta Pillai
6 Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
7 Mr. James Simpson
8 Mr. R. M. Statham
9 G. B. E. Truscott
10 Mr. John Whitely Tolson.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Deepening of the Alwaye River.

1. *MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the scheme, proposed by Mr. John Kuriyan, to deepen the Alwaye river, in his report about rivers, is at present engaging the consideration of the Government ; and

(*b*) if so, whether any steps are being taken to make the said river navigable throughout the year ?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A portion of the river between the ferry crossing at Alwaye and the railway bridge has been brought under maintenance. The river is ordinarily navigable throughout the year up to the Vallam landing near Perumbavoor and from there to Malayattur for six months in the year, except in floods and dry weather. Beyond Malayattur, it is not intended to render it navigable.

Alwaye District Hospital.

2. *MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the number of in-patients and out-patients treated during each of the years 1108 and 1109 in the District Hospital, Alwaye ;

(*b*) the number of beds available for in-patients in the hospital ;

(*c*) the number of patients (i) women (ii) children that attended the hospital during each of the years 1108 and 1109 ;

(*d*) whether representations have not been made to Government urging the increase in the number of beds in the hospital, the opening of a maternity ward and the appointment of a lady doctor ; and

(*e*) if so, the action taken ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) :

(*a*)

Year.	*In-patient.*	*Daily average.*	*Out-patient.*	*Daily average.*
1108	421	13·34	34,462	256·76
1109	456	17·00	34,770	260·21

(*b*) 36.

(*c*)

Year	*Total number*		*Daily average.*	
	Women.	*Children.*	*Women.*	*Children.*
1108	10,450	12,254	84·34	94·12
1109	10,233	12,864	77·95	96·60

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Government enquired into the matter and found that, since not even half the number of beds in the hospital was ordinarily occupied in a day, no increase in the number of beds was necessary and that the opening of a maternity ward and the appointment of a lady doctor in the hospital were also not urgent requirements.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the Government member whether there were times when the number of patients exceeded the number of beds ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) : I have no information.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member when exactly the number of beds did not suffice the requirements of the patients ?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*) : I have no information that such situation has ever arisen.

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